

432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
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Hello, folks,

Another week just about shot already. - It seems that the days sorta chag - but the weeks sure roll around. - Once in awhile we lose track of the day of the week for several days - and it's hard to believe it when you find out what it actually is! - Just think. - I'm well into my fifth month over-seas! - Sometimes it seems ages since we were in the states. - Depends on events and your particular humor at the moment, I suppose.

We've been busy this last week. - In all our spare time we have been working on our "officers club" for our squadron. You'd be surprised at the progress made. - In less than a week we have the building itself finished. It measures roughly about 25 ft wide + 50 ft long. - We have a bar in one corner and even a cement floor! - We will never know where the materials came from. - Small groups collected different stuff whenever and however they could. - Some from scrap piles, wrecked planes, from off of ships, boarded houses in town - just any place! - Paint +

finishing materials are even more scarce, but so far we have made out swell. - To finish the inside walls we took a blow torch and burnished the wood! - It gives it a stained color, and at the same time it brings the graining out in the wood. - Gives it a restful atmosphere. - One of the boys has a small portable radio-phonograph which he is donating and some one has made arrangements in town to get some chairs + small tables. With the magazines different ones subscribe to, it will take on the aspects of home - which we mean it to be.

To get started each of us gave \$20 to the fund. This pays for what we've had to buy - and will serve to keep the "bar" supplied plus some little snacks planes will pick up whenever possible when they go on "cross-countries". The liquor, if any, and the snacks will be bought by each one as in a store, thereby keeping the club solvent so that repeated donations won't be demanded! - All told - I think they got around \$800 to start things with! - It's a nice set up, and will give us a screened in, cooler, more useful place to lounge in. It should work out swell - only we will probably get orders to move again just after we get things running. - But even so, we will have had fun in building + planning! - Who knows, we might

2/ even dismantle it all, and shove it in a plane & take it along! - Stranger things happen in a combat zone!

Haven't much to write about since I wrote you, the day I was Airbase Officer. - I had a recurrence of the ~~diarrhea~~^{diarrhea} for several days! - The Doc gave me some more pills - and grounded me from going on any missions. I was pretty weak after several days of it, following the other spell I had ^{just} last week. - Think it must be due to some grapes we had been buying locally and the flies. It's next to impossible to keep flies off of anything and at times they just about drive a person nuts. - They are so hardy that when you swat them, - unless you follow it up and step on 'em - they get right up and fly. - And not away, either! They come back at you, and it's not hard to tell they are really mad, this time! - However, things are about under control again and the Doc says he will put me back on flying tomorrow. It is the first time since I've been flying that I've ever been grounded - officially, - and even tho it was just four days, - it seemed startling to think that I couldn't get out and fly if I'd wanted to! - Glad that's over and done with. -

Say, what do you know. Yesterday - the 27th - I got a telegram from Ma. - A Birthday

one, at that. - It arrived in Africa on the 2nd, tho, - and I suppose it was delayed because it bore no address other than my name, rank and serial number. - I'll find out if it's permissible to send it, and if it is - I'll let you see what it looks like - all done up in its French form!

Think at last I must have received all my lost mail. - It has gone back to what I guess is normal, and all the referred to letters seemed to have reached me! I even got some V mail paper from Sister mailed to me here!

Oh, yes, - a letter from Fred yesterday, one that had been held up, had the clipping about Buddy Lewis's buzz job at the ball park! - It sounds just like him! - I ~~showed~~ showed it to some of the fellows here about. - A couple of them were with me way back in Brooks Field - and were also with Buddy during their primary, and Basic at Randolph.

I've meant to drop Buddy a line - but so far haven't gotten around to it. I heard he was held up from leaving the states, because the C.O. of that particular field had need of a tall player such as Buddy - and when Buddy hit there - he (the C.O.) caused his orders to be changed + kept him there! - I

3/ seriously doubt that - but in the Army, I must admit it has possibilities! If that is true, I can see Buddy just going nuts as anxious as he was to get into combat. - It was bad enough when they put him in the troop carrier type of service! I'll have to drop him a note by way of his home, I guess.

I'll have to really start watching the mail now, for my cake. - I figured anywhere after 4 weeks - and it is just about 4 now! -

It seems there should be lots of things I want to tell you, but right now while I'm writing I can't think of a single one of them.

Oh, yes. - Western Church sends me a schedule of the services each week. - They also include a note from Rev. Mac Kenzie once in a while. - So far, they have mostly been forwarded from Acon. Don't know how they keep my address. Suppose it would be nice of me to acknowledge it in some way, but haven't as yet. - The other day I got a regular form - inviting ~~to~~ me to be present at the time of the presentation of their so called "roll of honor" - and that a seat would be saved for me! - of course it was way out of date! - It was signed by Brownie. I started a letter to him - explaining that I might not be able to get there due to pressing business - but never did finish it. - Later on when I got back to it, - I thought maybe he

wouldn't appreciate my sense of Humor! - So I never finished it. -

Oh, yes - I know what I've been intending to ask for some time, but can never remember, Sister, how about taking some of our fund and subscribing to the American Magazine for me? - I wrote the Sat. Even. Post + inclosed a check, but couldn't find what the American's address was. - So ----. Also, would it be possible to get just the Sunday edition of the Washington Post sent over here? - That would give us some funnies, and a resumé of news of all sorts. - That besides the magazines would give us plenty of reading material, - or it should. -

Well. - I'd better close and get over to see how the club is coming along. - Going "visiting" tomorrow, so maybe I'll send a Vmail after we get back. -

Love,
Frank